

Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/646,899	MAEDA ET AL.
	Examiner Vera Afremova	Art Unit 1651

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTO-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. This communication is responsive to 10/22/2003.
2. The allowed claim(s) is/are 26-36 and 42-46.
3. The drawings filed on 10 October 2000 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some* c) None of the:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

5. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
 - (a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
6. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application. **THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

7. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
8. CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) hereto or 2) to Paper No. _____.
 - (b) including changes required by the proposed drawing correction filed _____, which has been approved by the Examiner.
 - (c) including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No. _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the margin according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).

9. DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	5 <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
2 <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	6 <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No. _____.
3 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No. <u>10/22/2003</u>	7 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment
4 <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material	8 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
	9 <input type="checkbox"/> Other

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Thomas M. Cunningham on 12/08/2003.

The application has been amended as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claim 25 has been canceled.

Claim 26, line 4, after the phrase "eotaxin-3," has been inserted ---or in a culture medium comprising a culture supernatant of mitogen-stimulated peripheral blood mononuclear cells---.

Claim 27, line 2, phrase "a cell" has been replaced by ---the cell obtained---.

Claim 28, line 2, phrase "a cell" has been replaced by ---the cell obtained---.

Claim 36, line 2, phrase "comprises a" has been replaced by ---is a culture---.

Claims 37-41 have been canceled.

Claim 42, line 2, phrase "at least" has been deleted.

Claim 46, line 2, phrase "ranging from" has been replaced by ---of---.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Applicants' amendments and arguments filed 10/22/2003 have been fully considered and found persuasive with respect to the invention as presently claimed. The claimed invention, drawn to a method for producing osteoclast by a specific sequence of active steps of cell culturing in the absence and in the presence of cytokines, is neither taught nor fairly suggested by the cited references and, thus, it is novel and unobvious over the prior art of record.

In response to the applicants' request the documents cited on the International Search Report have been considered and the corresponding Form 1449 with the corrected number of WO document is attached herein. In addition, the document by Purton et al (March 1, 1996) has been cited on Form 892 as a reference of interest containing essentially the same subject matter as the abstract meeting information disclosed in the reference by Purton et al. [U], (Blood, 1995) that has been cited the prior office actions.

During telephonic interview with Thomas M. Cunningham, it was agreed that the examiner's amendment is drawn to the formal matter to better point out the applicants' invention. With the insertion of this amendment, the invention is more clearly defined to encompass in the independent claim an alternative source for the claim specific cytokines, namely, a culture medium containing one or more of the claim specific cytokines provided by supernatant of dependent claims 35 and 36. Support is found in original claims and in specification, for example: page 13, line 22.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue

fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Vera Afremova whose telephone number is (703) 308-9351 till January 15, 2004 or (571) 271-0914 after January 15, 2004. The examiner can normally be reached on 9.30 am - 6.00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael Wityshyn can be reached on (703) 308-4743 till January 15, 2004 or on (571) 272-0926 after January 15, 2004.

The fax phone number for the TC 1600 where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0196.

Vera Afremova

AU 1651

December 9, 2003.



VERA AFREMOVA

PATENT EXAMINER